Construction of New Municipal Office and Thusong Centre 65% Complete

The construction of the new uMfolozi Municipal Offices and Thusong Centre in Ward 02 is aimed at providing the people of uMfolozi easy access to information, services and resources from government. The construction of the new office is currently 65% and is expected to be completed on schedule.

The new building will not only house all municipal departments under one roof but will also ensure faster responses to the delivery of services. The municipality aims to centralize the access of information and data sharing through all government and municipal departments which will lead to faster and improved service delivery for the residents and stakeholders of uMfolozi.

The new centre will also ensure that the residents of uMfolozi will no longer have to travel long distances in order to get access to much needed services such as Home Affairs, Social Welfare, Health and Labour. This building is a reflection of the Municipality’s commitment to opening a gateway of government information for the people of uMfolozi.

The project was funded by The Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs and RBM. It created a number of local job opportunities during the course of construction, this included: Contract Managers, Jnr site agents, Brick Layers, Operators, Site Agents, General workers, Health and Safety Officers.
Message from the Mayor

As we enter a new term as the uMfolozi Municipal Council for the 2016-2021 municipal term, the newly elected council will follow and strengthen the values of its previous predecessors. The communities of uMfolozi trusted every new member of this council to deliver on the promise of creating a better home for them.

This Council will build on the solid foundation left behind by the previous administration, by fulfilling our mission of being a municipality that is innovative, governed accordingly and has a clear vision of developing the lives of the people of uMfolozi. Our vision is clear that we need to fully address poverty through economic growth by attracting investors into our small municipality, equipping our residents with skills and creating job opportunities. We believe that through a strategy focused on poverty alleviation through skills and economic development that we can create a better life for all residents of uMfolozi.

We will also tackle the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, continue to develop and maintain our infrastructure, educate and develop our youth and create a safe community for women and children.

We thank the people of our great municipality for trusting us with their vote and we will work hard to make sure that this Council fulfills its mandate and move uMfolozi forward.

Message from the Municipal Manager

The 2016 Local Government elections within the uMfolozi Municipality were once again free and fair. The elections proved that in South Africa we are a true democratic nation that stays true to the core values of the Constitution of our Republic.

The uMfolozi Municipality welcomes the new council which has been chosen by the people of our great community. The residents have placed their faith in every member of this council and trusted that they will indeed represent the needs of their communities accordingly within the Municipal Council. Change is always inevitable and welcomed for good governance to always prevail and communities to receive good service delivery at local level. The men and women whom have been elected have dedicated themselves to bringing change to their communities.

As we usher in the new term it is in the agenda of this council to tackle the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality in our municipality. Equipping our young people with skills is also one of our objectives as lack of skills and unemployment go hand in hand, in continuing the cycle of poverty, especially amongst our youth. Infrastructure development, job creation and bringing services closer to our residents are of prime importance to this council.

The uMfolozi Municipality welcomes this Council whom have dedicated themselves to moving uMfolozi forward.

Arbor Week Roadshow Educates Learners

The uMfolozi Municipality played host to the Arbor Week Roadshows as it celebrated Arbor month from 6 - 13th September 2016. The roadshows highlighted the importance of caring and protecting the environment. The aim of these roadshows was to educate the learners on the theme for 2016: Forest and Water. This included information on indigenous, drought resistant tree species and water-wise gardening. Learners were also educated about the trees of the year 2016: Ficus thonningii-Wild Fig, Maerua spp-Bush Cherry, Maerua angolensis-Big Bean Tree. The roadshow stressed the importance to preserve indigenous plant species and undo the damage that invader alien species have done to the earth surrounding the communities of uMfolozi.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries donated 250 trees (200 indigenous trees and 50 fruit trees) for schools which were part of the roadshows. The stakeholder task team helped in planting the trees in schools in ward 11 and neighbouring schools in ward 15. Other gifts such as buckets for the classrooms, water bottles, maths set, and school bags were also presented to the schools and learners.

Sports Drives the Youth of uMfolozi

The uMfolozi Municipality will be actively participating in the Local Salga Games which has in the recent years proved to have captured the hearts of the youth in all communities in the municipality. This was evident when the uMfolozi representative won the Junior Phase of the jump rope competition at the King Cesthwayo District Elimination Games held at the uMhlathuze Regional Sports Complex.

The young sports men and women of uMfolozi competed with 1245 other athletes from four other local municipalities of Nkandla, Mthonjaneni, uMlalazi and the City of uMhlathuze. The youth battled it out to make the King Cesthwayo squad in various sports codes which included boxing, cricket, chess, dance, football, indigenous games, karate, netball, rugby, swimming, table tennis and Volleyball.

The uMfolozi Municipality recognises that sports development keeps the youth active and away from bad behaviour such as alcohol, crime and teen pregnancy which often contribute to the high levels of unemployment and school dropouts. It is for this reason that the municipality has budgeted R1 000 000 for the 2016 / 17 budget year towards sports engagement programmes.
Youth of uMfolozi Encouraged to be Entrepreneurs

The uMfolozi Municipality in partnership with the National Department of Arts and Culture held an uMfolozi Youth in Business Workshop on Wednesday 26 October 2016 at the Nzalabantu Community Hall in ward 5.

The Youth in Business Workshop aimed to encourage business entrepreneurship amongst the youth of uMfolozi as a tool to fight poverty and unemployment. The Youth in Business Workshop also helped empower the youth with information on business skills and various avenues they can use to help start and maintain their businesses in uMfolozi.

The Department of Arts and Culture has embarked on a strategy called the Mzansi Golden Economy to reposition the arts, culture and heritage sector as key players in government programme of action for social cohesion, creation of sustainable jobs and ensuring social and economic development. The arts and culture in our country is considered to be the “new gold” which has the potential to increase economic growth and create jobs in South Africa. The department will also help finance small start-up businesses to interested youth.

uMfolozi Youth Council Chairperson Mr Hlakaniphile Radebe has called on young people to get up and reach for their goals and not wait for Government to provide jobs. “We must all be active in making sure that we change the economic circumstances of ourselves and our families,” said Radebe.

Various stakeholders attended the business workshop including the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Richards Bay Minerals, Zululand Chamber of Commerce and the IThala Bank who informed and instilled entrepreneurial confidence and courage amongst the youth.

Examination Prayer Encourages Matric Class of 2016

uMfolozi Municipality hosted a matric examination prayer in partnership with the King Cetshwayo District Municipality on Sunday 23 October 2016 at the Ntongande High School in Mzingazi. District Mayor Cllr Nonhle Mkhulisi led the prayer with the aim of supporting and boosting the confidence of 19 000 learners who will be sitting for their final matric examination with the King Cetshwayo District.

uMfolozi Mayor Cllr Smanga Mgenge, urged parents and guardians to fully support the learners as they sit for these momentous examinations which have the potential to open the doors to their future careers. Mayor Mgenge also encouraged the community to assist teachers in helping the learners prepare themselves for the exam. “Teaching our children is not only reserved for our teachers but the entire community must play a role in making sure that we create capable matriculants who will be able to compete in the real world,” said the Mayor.

Her Worship Mayor Cllr Mikhulisi of the King Cetshwayo District Municipality encouraged the youth to focus on their studies. “Education is the only tool which has the power to change everyone’s circumstances,” said Her Worship Mikhulisi. She said that learners must work hard in order to help their families have a better life.

Mr David Chonco from the Department of Education thanked the teachers for their hard work and dedication regardless of the circumstances or surroundings of the schools they teach in. Mr Chonco also encouraged the learners to look at specialist fields which are often ignored but are in demand in our country.

uMfolozi Mayor Wishes the Matriculates of 2016 well

It is that time of the year again when our matriculants sit for their final examinations after a long and hard year of studying. Matric is the time for all learners to reflect on their schooling careers and plan for their future careers. Learners should also be proud to sit for this exam because many students did not complete the schooling cycle.

Education is the key to unlocking the doors of freedom to a brighter future, so that the vision of every matriculant should have no boundaries as to what can be achieved.

I urge parents, guardians and family members to give our matriculants a chance to study and prepare for this career defining examinations.

We support the matric class of 2016.

Good Luck!
It was a joyous occasion for the learners and teachers in 15 wards within the uMfolozi Municipality when they gathered for the closing ceremony of the "Sustaining My School Cleanliness Competition," held on Thursday, 29 September 2016 at the Meet Mekaar Resort. The ceremony was held in recognition of the hard work and dedication that the children made towards their schooling environment, in Sustaining My School Cleanliness competition.

The cleanliness programme encouraged learners to be aware of their personal hygiene, good sanitation as well as clean school environment in order to have a clean and safe place to learn and play. uMfolozi Municipal Manager Mr Khulumowakhe Gamede congratulated the learners and encouraged them to continue working hard to keep their schools and communities clean. "The programme was created to promote school cleanliness which is part of the Back to Basics programme, in order to encourage a motivational place of learning for school children as well as for the learners to be exposed to the environmental surrounding such as agriculture and geography," said Municipal Manager Gamede.

The municipality has been conducting unannounced visits to the 30 participating schools throughout the competition in order to closely monitor their progress as well as to ensure the school was headed towards the right direction in order to choose a deserving winner. Mr Gamede also encouraged parents to instil in their children the importance of cleanliness in their homes in order to be responsible citizens regarding their surroundings. Speaking on behalf of the King Cetshwayo District Department of Education (formerly uThungulu Municipality), Mr Nhlabathi said the district commends the uMfolozi Municipality for embarking on the Sustain My School Cleanliness competition. "It is rewarding as an education professional to see schools clean because of learners under the guidance of their teachers," said Mr Nhlabathi. He also urged school principals and teachers to ask for help in order to maintain school cleanliness, "It is important for school principals and teachers to ask for knowledge from private companies who have vast knowledge on how to take care of the environment and to pass on that knowledge to the learners," said Mr Nhlabathi.

All schools that participated were awarded with gardening equipment’s and certificates. The top three schools were also awarded with certificates, trophies, jojo tanks and other goodies to help continue their cleanliness programmes.

TOP THREE WINNERS!!
1st Cwaka Primary School
2nd Otigweni Primary School
3rd Homeleigh Primary School
Gathering Motivates Men in uMfolozi

uMfolozi Municipality celebrated Men’s Month by hosting a Men’s Social Cohesion Gathering, at the Ntuthunga Sport field in Ward 13. The gathering aimed to encourage the men to build a caring society by playing a pivotal role in laying the right foundation for a healthy and striving community.

More than 900 men and community members were present at the gathering which addressed issues of health and the role men should play in building and developing a better community. Municipal Manager Mr Khulumowakhe Gamede said it was time for men to spearhead the campaign to end violence against women and children. “We must be the ones protecting our women and young girls from predators who choose to harm and expose them to diseases,” said Mr Gamede.

Pastor SC Sithole told the men present that they must be the generation of African men who become good role models for the young men. “A good man needs a good male role model to be able to thrive and fight for a just and better community,” said Pastor Sithole. The Pastor continued that men must be protectors and providers for their families in order to be a good leader for the community.

The representative from the Department of Health Mr MP Zulu encouraged the men to take extra care of their health and not become reckless in drinking alcohol. “In order to live a long and productive life, men must also engage in physical activity such as sports and eat the right kind of food,” he said. Mr Zulu continued to encourage the men to practice safe sex even with their wives in order to reduce the risk of diseases. “Circumcision is a wonderful strategy for our government to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. However, circumcision alone does not stop the spread of such disease but practicing safe sex is a proven method of truly protecting your family,” said Zulu. Mr Zulu added that men must also be champions in testing for HIV/AIDS in order to start ARV’s they have tested positive. Mr Zulu said once a person tests positive for HIV they will now automatically start taking the ARV course.

His worship Cllr Smanga Mgenge said men must go back to being worthy leaders in their homes by being good fathers to their children. “A man must not only focus on his family but the whole community, men must protect their own families as well as their neighbours,” said Mayor Mgenge. Municipal Manager Khulumowakhe Gamede said the uMfolozi Men’s Forum will have a sitting every month to ensure that men have a safe haven to talk about their challenges, inform themselves while also looking for ways to develop their communities.

The men’s gathering was created by the Umfolozi Municipality in partnership with the Office of the Premier, Department of Health, Department of Social Development and the Traditional Healers Practitioners.

uMfolozi Committed to Eradicating Poverty

The uMfolozi Municipality is committed to reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for all who live within the municipality. uMfolozi is committed to tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality by providing skills development programmes to the residents of uMfolozi, especially women, the youth and the previously disadvantaged.

The planned poverty alleviation programmes will not only assist with generating an income. It will also ensure that the community rebuild itself socially, by re-establishing a sense of community worth, identity and social integration. These factors will contribute towards ending social ills that have plagued some of our communities.

Various programmes are being implemented which will include but not limited to sustainable community food gardens in a form of: fencing, seedlings, irrigation which will help address food insecurity as well as poultry projects, catering projects, garden fencing, tools, seedlings, block-making projects, garden services and sewing projects.

The uMfolozi Municipality is a small but productive municipality which is determined to creating a better life for all the residents of the municipality by promoting social and economic development.

Celebrating 16 years of Democratic Local Government
uMfolozi Traditional Healers Indaba a Success

uMfolozi Municipality held a two day Traditional Healers Indaba to strengthen relations between Traditional Healers, Community Care Givers, the Department of Health and its residents. This was done to teach the community of uMfolozi about regulations on traditional healers and western medicine.

More than 200 Traditional Health Practitioners attended the two day event which took place at the Bay Show Inn in Richards Bay as well as Mabhuyeni in ward 7. The Health Practitioners young and old from all works of life discussed ways to fully integrate traditional medicine with the community and educate people about the advantages of incorporating traditional medicine into their lives.

The Indaba also debated ways traditional healers can be incorporated into the public health system so that traditional health practitioners can work closely with clinical health practitioners thus strengthening referral links between healers and health facilities in cases where patients may be living with HIV, TB or chronic illnesses like high blood pressure.

Municipal Manager Mr Khulumowakhe Gamede said traditional and clinical practitioners need to find ways to work together so that the public can be exposed to the best treatments both African and Western medicines have to offer. “The first medical point of contact for many people in our communities is a traditional healer and then their will go to the local clinic or hospital. This shows that there is indeed a demand for both traditional and clinical practitioners to have a good working relationship to benefit the communities they both serve,” said Gamede.

The traditional healers condemned fake healers who use traditional medicine to further bad intentions of their “customers”. The traditional healers made a resolution to teach the public to recognise fake healers and not to continue going to these “healers”. The indaba ended with both the Municipality and stakeholders agreeing to meet regularly in order to participate in and improve community health.

The uMfolozi Municipality is proud of the young maidens of uMfolozi who joined the thousands of maidens from all over South Africa who attended the annual uMkhosi Womhlanga, which was held in Nyokeni Royal Palace in KwaNongoma in September 2016.

The Municipality fully supports the Reed Dance and the young ladies who take part in the preservation of this cultural event. In its 32nd year the uMkhosi Womhlanga, emphasis is not restricted to the purity of women as virgins but also as a beautiful cultural tradition which helps curb the spread of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. The Reed Dance also encourages young women to be independent self-sufficient women who pride themselves in getting educated and one day leading successful careers or owning their own businesses. The Reed Dance also promotes the respect of women and children.

uMfolozi Municipality values the dignity and role women play in ensuring that the strong foundation of our communities is upheld. His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini thanked the maidens for their attendance and encouraged the girls to continue being proud of their purity and respecting their bodies while also thinking about their futures.
The uMfolozi Municipality in partnership with the uMfolozi Youth Council hosted a very successful Social Cohesion and Nation building event, held at the Kwanbo Parking.

This event was held as a partnership with the municipality and the youth of uMfolozi coming together to develop sustainable initiatives that would help involve young people in municipal activities. This also included the awareness on social ills which aimed to inspire humility and mutual respect as well as the promotion of education.

It has become the responsibility of the Municipality to tackle social issues which continue to negatively affect the community on a daily basis. “It is vital for the youth to stick to their values and principles of social cohesion. It is also the role of the Municipality to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of all its members and to minimize disparities, “said uMfolozi Mayor- Cllr Smanga Mgenge.

The Chairperson of the Youth Council highlighted the importance of young people being involved in various structures of the municipalities. The Chairperson also informed the youth on the elections of the youth structures in all wards in preparation of having a Youth Council.

New Appointment
Director Corporate Services

Ms Nonhlanhla Ziphokuhle Ndlela has been appointed Director of Corporate Services. Ms Ndlela holds Bachelors qualifications in Human Resources and Industrial Psychology and a Honours Degree in Public Administration. She has an impressive track record in Corporate Services and has extensive local government experience.

Ms Ndlela joins the uMfolozi Municipality after having successfully served the uMkhanyakude District Municipality as General Manager of Corporate Services. While working under the District of UKDM, Ms Ndlela gained valuable experience and working knowledge of how the water services authority operates and the significant role corporate services play in ensuring that service delivery standards are met to better serve the community.

Director Ndlela started her career at local municipal level where she served as a Committee Clerk. Her focus, dedication and drive saw her steadily moving through the ranks within the local municipality. Her management potential was quickly recognised by senior management which then saw her being appointed Manager: Council Support within a few years. Her excellent work ethic and ability to manage tasks assigned to her, led to her being appointed Director: Corporate Services which gave her the necessary foundation and skills to work for a District Municipality. Ms Ndlela’s move to take up her current position at uMfolozi Local Municipality was influenced by her decision to spend more time with her family and live closer to her home. As a working mother raising two daughters and a son, Ms Ndlela knows the crucial role the family unit plays in childhood development.

Director Ndlela’s appointment at uMfolozi Municipality will be to define the roles and responsibilities of the Corporate Services Department in the local government sector. Director Ndlela explained that the role of Corporate Services in a Municipality is to ensure that the municipality operates effectively and efficiently and that each and every employee within the municipality understands his/her role and the valuable contribution that they make towards the attainment of the organizational strategic objectives. Corporate Services also ensures that staff are given the necessary support to expand their skillsets and capabilities so that they can deliver on the municipality’s mandate. “I am passionate about unleashing the full potential of every single individual who works in uMfolozi, while also creating projects which will help to sharpen the skills of our community members. I believe that each and every employee, regardless of their positions can help the organization to achieve its constitutional mandate which is to deliver services to the communities. Being a Human Resources Practitioner and Industrial Psychologist by profession, I will be able to recommend strategic solutions hindering employees from achieving their individual developmental goals,” said Director Ndlela.

Director Ndlela applies an inclusive and interactive management approach which according to her assists in developing and maintaining winning teams. Within her first week in office, she arranged briefing sessions with her departmental management team which will culminate into a departmental briefing session. This will also assist her to get to know people so she can work with and them getting to know her as the “Captain of the Ship”. The information gathered during the briefing sessions will assist her in developing a departmental turnaround plan outlining the projects and programmes that will be completed within 100 days of her being appointed to head the Department. Since Corporate Services is a support department, some of the projects and programmes will cut across all departments, therefore; she will be working closely with the management team of the Municipality. She firmly believes that uMfolozi Municipality has a potential to grow as it has a youthful staff complement and a drive to make a tremendous difference to the lives of the communities of uMfolozi Municipality.

Lastly, Director Ndlela is thankful to the Council of uMfolozi Municipality for affording her the opportunity of being part of its dynamic senior management team. She pledged her commitment to providing strategic support and advice to Council particularly on compliance and policy issues and in ensuring that the vision of the Municipality which is “To provide service delivery that creates a better life for all” is achieved.

Remember to Save Water

The uMfolozi Mayor Cllr Simanga Mgenge urges all the communities of uMfolozi to use water wisely and make sure that water leaks are reported to the municipality so that they can be timeously fixed.
Mayor Mgenge Welcomes New Council

The community of uMfolozi Municipality have trusted us with their vote in order for us to deliver on our mandate of creating an economically sound municipality with viable infrastructure. This council will push forward the municipality’s vision of empowering its people, protecting the environment while also demonstrating good governance in leadership.

Though we are a small rural municipality, uMfolozi will spear ahead with its responsibility of being an efficient office which is focused on service delivery and implementing programmes that will be focused on empowering the citizens of uMfolozi. This council has a united vision of creating better living conditions in every single corner of uMfolozi.

Attracting investor’s is fundamental in tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We are also focused on establishing ourselves as a tourist friendly tourism destination which will open doors of employment and skills development for the residents of uMfolozi. Economic growth and education are two pillars of success in creating a community that is self-sufficient and has economic freedom. The continuous upliftment and protection of women and children is something that is close to this council.

This council vow’s to put the people of uMfolozi first and good governance is always achieved by attending and listening to the needs of our people, ensuring that we do not deviate from implementing good financial policies which will uplift the lives of our people.

I trust that this Council will dedicate themselves and work tirelessly to not betray the trust which the community of uMfolozi bestowed upon them on election day.

United let us all work together to move uMfolozi forward.

Mayor Cllr Smangela Mgenge being elected to serve his second term as Mayor of uMfolozi.

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